

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (original) A method for managing a network providing data services to a subscriber, wherein the network comprises an OLT and an ONU connected to the OLT via a passive optical network, wherein the ONU is connected to the subscriber through an xDSL connection, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of managed entities for managing the ONU, wherein the plurality of managed entities further comprise ADSL managed entities for managing an ADSL connection between the ONU and the subscriber, and VDSL managed entities for managing a VDSL connection between the ONU and the subscriber;

managing the network through one or more of the plurality of managed entities; and

communicating data and network management information between the OLT and the ONU in response to the managed entities.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of communicating the data and the network management information further comprises communicating the data and the network management information over the passive optical network.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein each one of the plurality of managed entities further comprises one or more network attributes, each network attribute associated with a network feature.

4. (original) The method of 3 wherein network attributes associated with related network features are included within a single managed entity.

5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the network attributes associated with related network features included within a single ADSL managed entity comprise one or more of channel performance monitoring history data, ATU-C and ATU-R performance monitoring history data, channel configuration profile, channel downstream status data, channel upstream status data, a downstream PSD mask profile, a downstream RFI bands profile, a subcarrier masking downstream profile, a subcarrier masking upstream profile, threshold crossing adaptor performance monitoring history data.

6. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the network attributes associated with related network features included within a single VDSL managed entity comprise one or more of physical path termination point VDSL UNI, band plan configuration profile, channel configuration profile, channel data, line configuration profile, VTU-O and VTU-R channel performance monitoring history data, VTU-O and VTU-R physical data, VTU-O and VTU-R physical interface monitoring history data.

7. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein network attributes define operational parameters of one or more of the OLT, the ONU, the passive optical network, the ADSL connection and the VDSL connection, and wherein network attributes associated with related network features are included within a single managed entity.

8. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein network attributes associated with related network features are included within a plurality of associated managed entities.

9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein the plurality of associated managed entities comprise managed entities related to one or more of an ADSL line configuration profile, ADSL line inventory and status data and physical path termination point ADSL UNI.

10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein each managed entity is represented by a fixed number of data bytes.

11. (canceled)

12. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein each one of the plurality of managed entities is represented by a fixed number of data bits and comprises one or more network attributes selected from a plurality of network attributes, and wherein each network attribute is represented by data bits, and wherein the network attributes selected for inclusion within each one of the plurality of managed entities comprise network attributes associated with related network features and network attributes having a data bit sum less than or equal to the fixed number of data bits.

13. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the data services comprise telephone service, Internet data service, multimedia services and video services.

14. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the passive optical network comprises a broadband passive optical network or a gigabit passive optical network.

15. (canceled)

16. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving network management requests from a network management system, wherein the step of managing the network is responsive to the network management requests.

17. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising creating a plurality of managed entities when an xDSL connection is activated.

18. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein each managed entity comprises one or more of a relationships element, an attributes element, an actions element and a notifications element.

19. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein the notifications element further comprises alarms, test results and attribute value changes.

20. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein each one of the plurality of managed entities comprises network attributes, and wherein certain related network attributes are included in one managed entity and certain other related network attributes are included in at least two managed entities.

21. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of managed entities further comprise required managed entities and optional managed entities.

22. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of subscribers and a plurality of ONU's, wherein each one of the plurality of ONU's is connected to subscribers through the xDSL connection, and wherein the step of communicating further comprises communicating data and network management information between the OLT and the plurality of ONU's in response to the managed entities.

23-65. (canceled)